

THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 9 OIF

17 July 2003



CPT Preister relinquishes the guidon to COL Johnson who will pass it CPT Arosemena in front of the "Hellraisers" and the 2BCT palace in Central Baghdad.



COL Johnson makes remarks during his farewell at the Al Rasheed Hotel in central Baghdad.

Editor

Hello Everyone. Just a quick note, since "stop move/loss" has been lifted and the summer transition is upon us, there are many changes going on in the BCT. First and most obvious is the Brigade Change of Command. We have already seen three of the Battalions change and there are two more coming up in the next few days. The same turmoil is happening at the company level, many of the companies have changed or are changing over. One of those changes is near and dear to my heart; HHC 2nd BDE has changed command from CPT Ted M. Preister to CPT Che' Arosemena. Since I was free and MAJ Holbrook had to PCS I have been selected as the

BCT Rear-D commander. I returned to Baumholder on 5 July and have almost figured out some of what MAJ Holbrook does. He is leaving in just a few days and I will be the editor of the Striker Statement. I know there has been a significant break between issues but I will try to publish every Thursday from now on. That means if you have any input please submit by close of business on Wednesdays, as it takes several hours to consolidate and format the news.

Happy to be in "cool" Baumholder
Ted M. Preister



2BCT welcomes the latest addition to the family, Debbie, Katelynn and Julliane Baker.



The new Striker Chaplain, MAJ Woodbery, gets his first taste of the good life in Baumholder



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Pioneer

To the families of the 47th FSB:

Greetings and warm wishes from our soldiers stationed in Baghdad. As the deployment nears the end of its third month, our soldiers have settled into a regular rhythm. They continue to perform their normal missions of supplying, maintaining, and providing health support to the BCT. During their off-duty hours, our troops try to make the best of the situation and engage in their favorite leisure activities. A major area of command emphasis within our battalion is to ensure that soldiers have maximum access to telephones and computers in order to keep in touch with their loved ones. The leaders of the battalion make every effort to give soldiers the opportunity to communicate with their families and, as the communications infrastructure and facilities improve in Baghdad, we expect communications with deployed family members to become more dependable and regular. Unfortunately, I do not know how long it will take for the communications to improve but I do know that steps are being taken "downrange" to facilitate these improvements. We still do not yet know when they will be home or what the future may hold for the 47th but we all hope and pray for the safe and speedy return of our soldiers. Our next major upcoming event here in Baumholder is a Family Readiness Group meeting to be held on Monday, July 28th at 6:00 p.m. in the Wagon Wheel Theater. Remember to check your mailboxes for your newsletters to receive other information about upcoming events and activities.

CPT Rob Bohr

Rear Detachment Commander

RAM

Hello Everyone,

01 JUL 2003

When I started working on the family newsletter today, I realized that my last newsletter was written on 20 Jun. I am shocked at how much time has passed. I guess that is indicative of how busy we've been the last few weeks with Operation Desert Scorpion. Of course we are still focused on the Zoo. We are trying to get a portion of the zoo opened by 12 July. To prepare the Zawra Zoo we have a long list of work that we are doing ourselves and work that

we have hired Iraqi contractors for. We are repairing the water and irrigation systems. We are cleaning up the canal, emplacing lighting and security fences. Latrines are being renovated and A/Cs emplaced.

A few days ago, after a recruiting drive, we had a huge crowd of about 150 Iraqis show up at one of the gates to the park seeking jobs. While the crowd was gathered a couple of Iraqi men down the street got in an argument over a power line and fired a couple of rounds. The rounds impacted near the gate, and the soldiers, from another EN BN, returned fire. No one was hurt, but the two men were scared off. The crowd remained under control with the help of interpreters and the Engineer Recon Team.

Assassins have had six bridge erection boats with them for the last two weeks, which they have been using to patrol the Tigris river. A platoon from A Co supported a raid by TF 1-6 IN, bringing mine detectors to help search for munitions. The company is currently building a small arms range for TF 1-6 IN to maintain proficiency. The company recently hosted some reporters from the New York Times. I think the reporters were doing an article on the Ba'ath Party. Assassins base includes the Ba'ath Party Museum. During the capture of Baghdad a company of engineers used a MICLIC to destroy a building that was filled with munitions. A MICLIC is basically a heavy rope with 1,800 lbs of C-4 attached to it. They just finished cleaning up the debris a few days ago.

Bulldogs have returned to the battalion and are now responsible for the Zawra Park and the Zoo. In the past week and a half, they have provided NCOs to supervise Iraqi labor and have begun patrolling the area heavily. The company has evicted squatters and recruited a security force of Iraqis to patrol the Zoo as we try to shift responsibility for Iraq back to the Iraqi people. The company also helped to upgrade Assassin Gate by emplacing obstacles to control traffic and put their ACEs and SEEs to work also. They have supported a raid by 4-27 FA, and they have spread gravel for tents for an MP company. Not long ago, the company responded to a report of shots fired. It turned out to be warning shots fired by some local security men who were protecting a power station. One other very important note, the company has changed Command. The new commander is CPT Phillip Borders.

The Rock also changed command. CPT Wiley has been replaced by CPT Charles Battiste. The company has taken responsibility for a portion of the



Inner Cordon, and in doing so, they have begun aggressive upgrades to checkpoints and protective measures in their area. I would say that one of the great things about being a Combat Engineer is that no one builds like we do, and the Rock is proving it. They have also upgraded the defenses for several other units in our area of operations. On a special note, SGT Melvin has been specially trained to help build an Iraqi security force, which he has been doing for the past week. The company has also been removing destroyed Iraqi vehicles and equipment.

Headhunters have repaired a bear cage at the zoo by welding and have moved several checkpoints with the HEMMT wreckers. The company is conducting change of command inventories. Today the company is supervising the cleanup of their base and being assisted by local contractors. The company has also been responsible for hauling a lot of barrier and building materials to the battalion, making many of our missions possible.

Ram Chaplain



SSG Grady from A 40th enjoys a well deserved break in a typical Baghdad setting, a palatial room with fans.

The featured soldier for this newsletter is SSG Edward Grady. I am sorry the picture quality is so poor. He sends, "Hello Honey, today I was thinking of you and the kids, and wouldn't you know it, CPT Walden came in to take photos and send this letter. So I will keep it short and say I love you. Hug the kids and tell them that God has a plan for us and we will be together again and make up for lost time. My grandmother told me one time that God puts you through a thing to prepare you for a big blessing that is to come. So don't think much about us being apart,

just thank God for our blessing to come. Truly yours,
Ed. P.S. Ed Jr, Kaela, Jenee, Quadre, I love you."

Conqueror

Here are some birthday and anniversaries from the Battalion:

Birthdates

18 Jul Peyton Cole Carter
16 Jul Steven Revette
13 Jul David Bahret
20 Jul Brandon Bahret
20 Jul Briana Bahret
30 Jul Megan Moss
6 Jul SSG Dooley
12 Jul Ryan Dooley
22 Jul Teresa Robinson
14 Jul SSG Linder
20 Jul Carmen Morales
29 Jul Jasmin Wilkes
2 Jul SPC Wilkes
4 Jul Kyle Bunda

Anniversary

12 Jul SSG Jeff & Shirley Linder

Chaplain Corner

While CH (MAJ) Matt Woodbery transits downrange, his counterpart in the Rear Detachment has opened his door for families and soldiers in Baumholder. CH (MAJ) Steve Horning, Reservist with the 256th CSH in Cleveland, Ohio, comes with 23 years of pastoral experience. He planted the Westminster Presbyterian (PCA) church in Cleveland and has stayed with that same congregation - except for mobilized duty this past year in the Landstuhl hospital (LRMC) and now here in the 222nd BSB and our Brigade.

You can reach him at DSN 485-7295 /6650 or through the BSB Chapel staff at 485-1570. Call about marriage and family counseling, encouragement through prayer, and good ways to help your faith grow strong. He's fluent in German and willing to help as a go-between.

Regulars



Betty Andrews and Sandy Ewers set up at the 1-6 IN hot dog sale.



Ellie Loveall and Taggart relax at the HHC 1-6 IN picnic.



Mellisa Petrone serves LTC and Stephanie Jones hot dogs as they support their BN fundraiser.



Inka Traeger and Kathryn Peterson stop to talk to their fellow Regulars at the fundraiser.



Eden Dunn, Michelle Goddard and Shah Tasneen socialize at the picnic.



Fran Gernert, Sheryl Elkins, Jill Norris and Yvonne Waddle clean up the leftovers.





Mellisa Petrone, Kimberly McHugh and her sons Mason, Dylan and Connor help man the grill.

Hellraisers

A big THANK YOU to all the Ladies that came out on a warm Saturday afternoon, donating items, and helped wrapping up the boxes for the soldiers: Amparo Alvarez, Christine Burton, Sarah Cummins, Martina Crisp with Mom, Sabine Hall, Evelyn Koegel, Ashley Montgomery, Melisa Perez and Patrice Sorenson. Also thank you to all the children that came with Mom and helped too.



HHC 2nd Brigade Ladies working hard.



Elizabeth Mapes and Son busy putting the labels on the boxes.



Sabine Hall counting the packages. This time 19 boxes were packed and so far a total of 22 big boxes went to Iraq for the soldiers.



GATORS

TF Gator led by Armor Company Commander CPT Zelkowitz conducted another raid this week. Two dismounted platoons, one military police unit, one ambulance, two tank platoons, an informant and an interpreter descended upon several houses within a town outside of Baghdad.

Planning for the mission began two days prior to execution. Troops studied aerial photos, conducted detailed coordination's between units, and gathered detailed information from informants. Rehearsals were conducted to synchronize last minute details.



**SPC Burns, C
CO 1st
PLT,
Loads the
truck
ready to
go on the
raid.**

Lt. Bressers from 1st platoon C Co was objective about the mission when he remarked, "it should be a good mission, if our intelligence is correct there should be lots to find". All the soldiers were looking forward to the raid, spirits were high knowing that the intelligence still said everything should still be there.

**SGT Grant
and SGT
Johnson, C
CO 1st PLT,
move one of
the men
detained
during the
raid.**



SGT Johnson, 1st Squad Leader, led his squad while following the informant to the door of the man's house. At which time, the squad secured the area and entered the house. "I think my squad did well tonight, an attribute to prior planning and rehearsals."

There were no American injuries and we did find what we were looking for in the town. Blackjack was successful in defeating paramilitary forces found on the objective. This was the second time the Gators have conducted such an operation since assuming our new sector just weeks ago.

SGM Olson Turns 40

How do you plan a surprise birthday party from Germany for your husband, who is in Iraq? Well Mrs. Tina Olson did it and here's how. Prior to leaving she contacted CPT Hormann and arranged to send him a package for the SGM's 40th birthday. She managed to send cake, candles, presents, balloons and lots more. CPT Hormann than arranged the surprise with the night shift to have everything set up after the SGM returned from the change of command ceremony early on July 9th, his birthday. Then had the S-3 Major Loffert drive around to delay SGM's arrival until everything was set up. It was a huge success! Thanks to everyone involved and especially his wife Tina!



SGM Olson celebrates his 40th birthday with a cake and presents sent from his wife Tina.